

"Stockpile Management"

Wesley Tucker

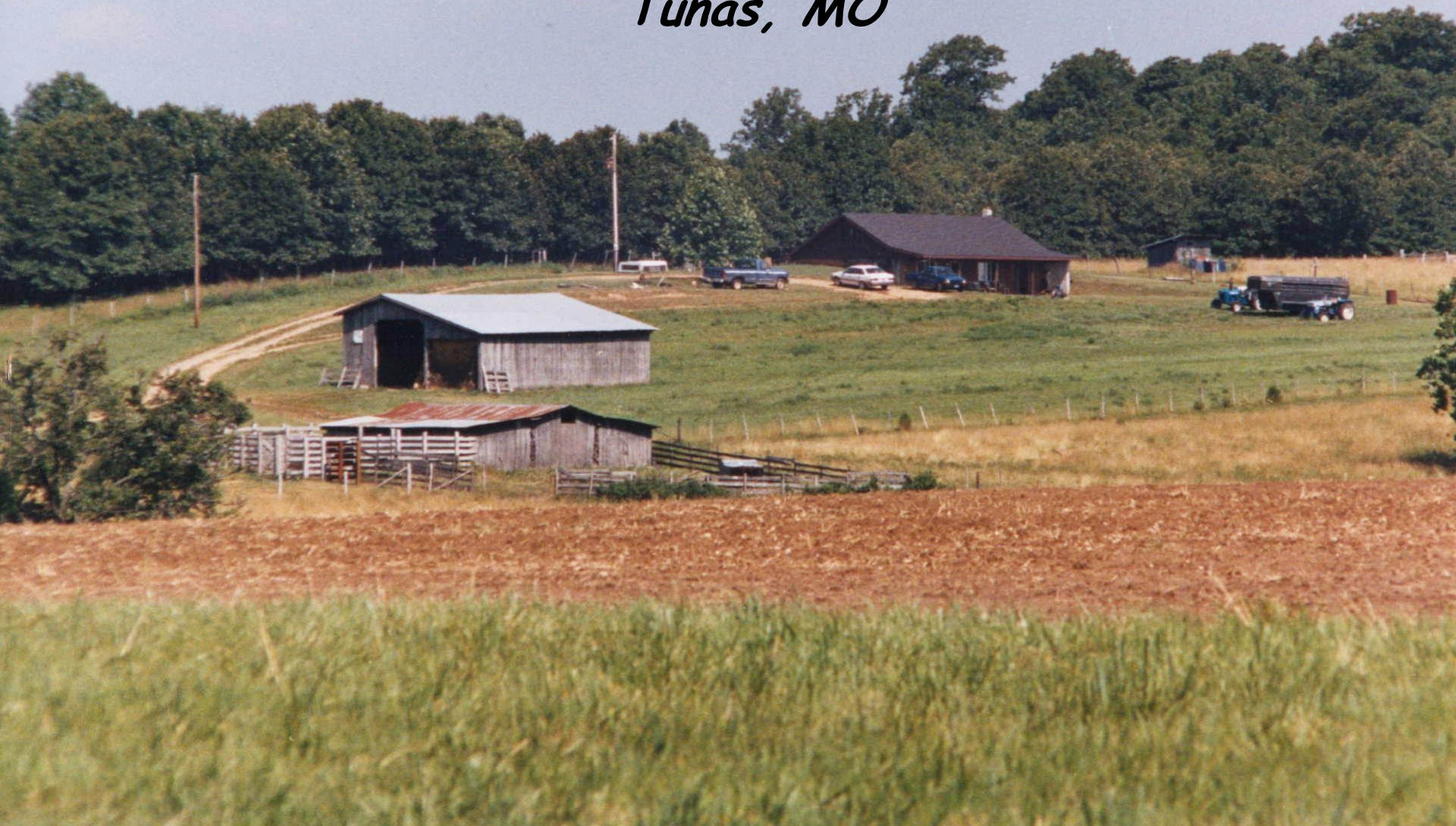
Agriculture Business Specialist

University of Missouri Extension



Tucker Farms

Tunas, MO



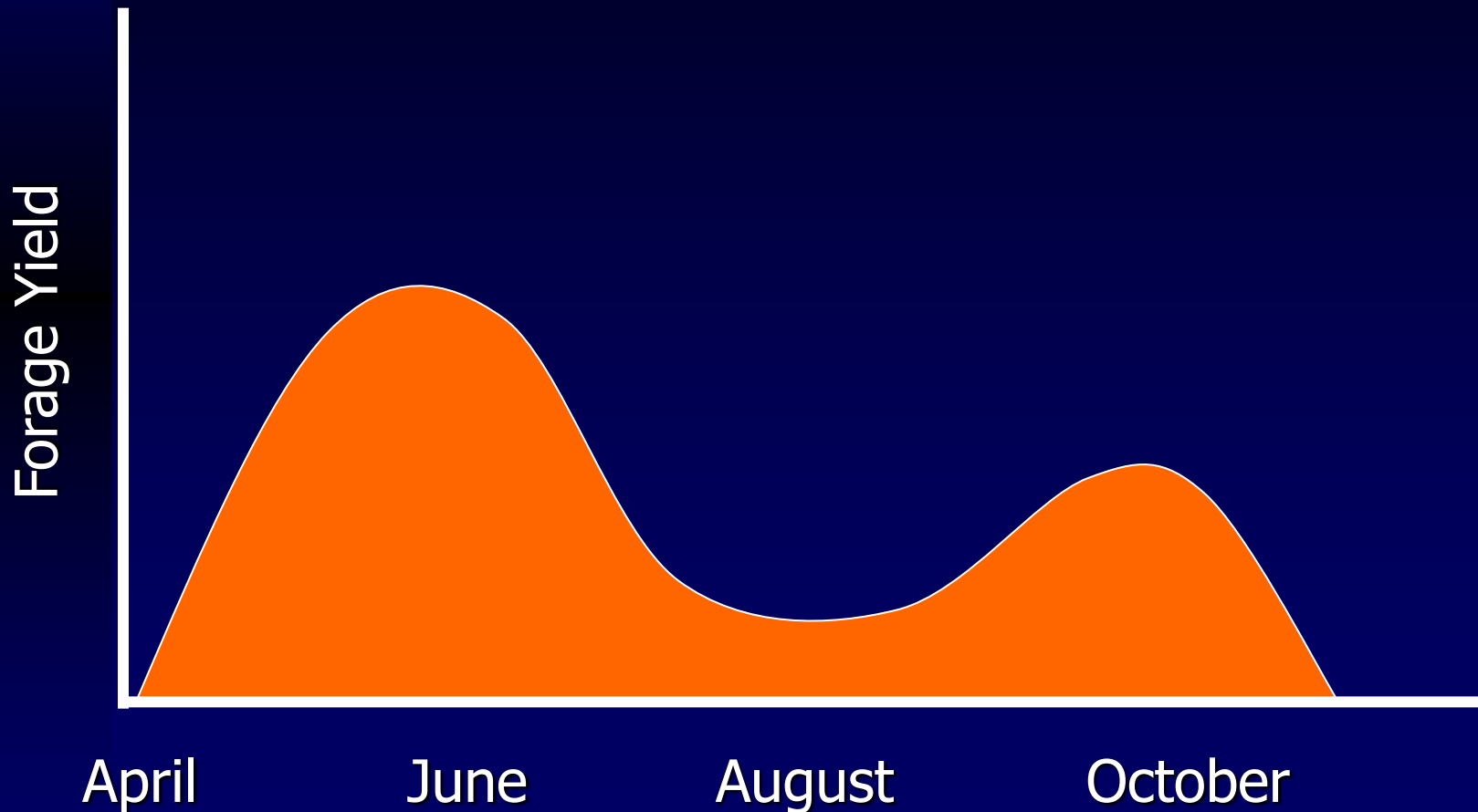
 MU Extension since May 2001

 My job is to help you make more money

 Starts right here



Stocking Rate: Cool-Season Grasses



Winter Feed is Expensive



ESTIMATED OPERATING COSTS/COW

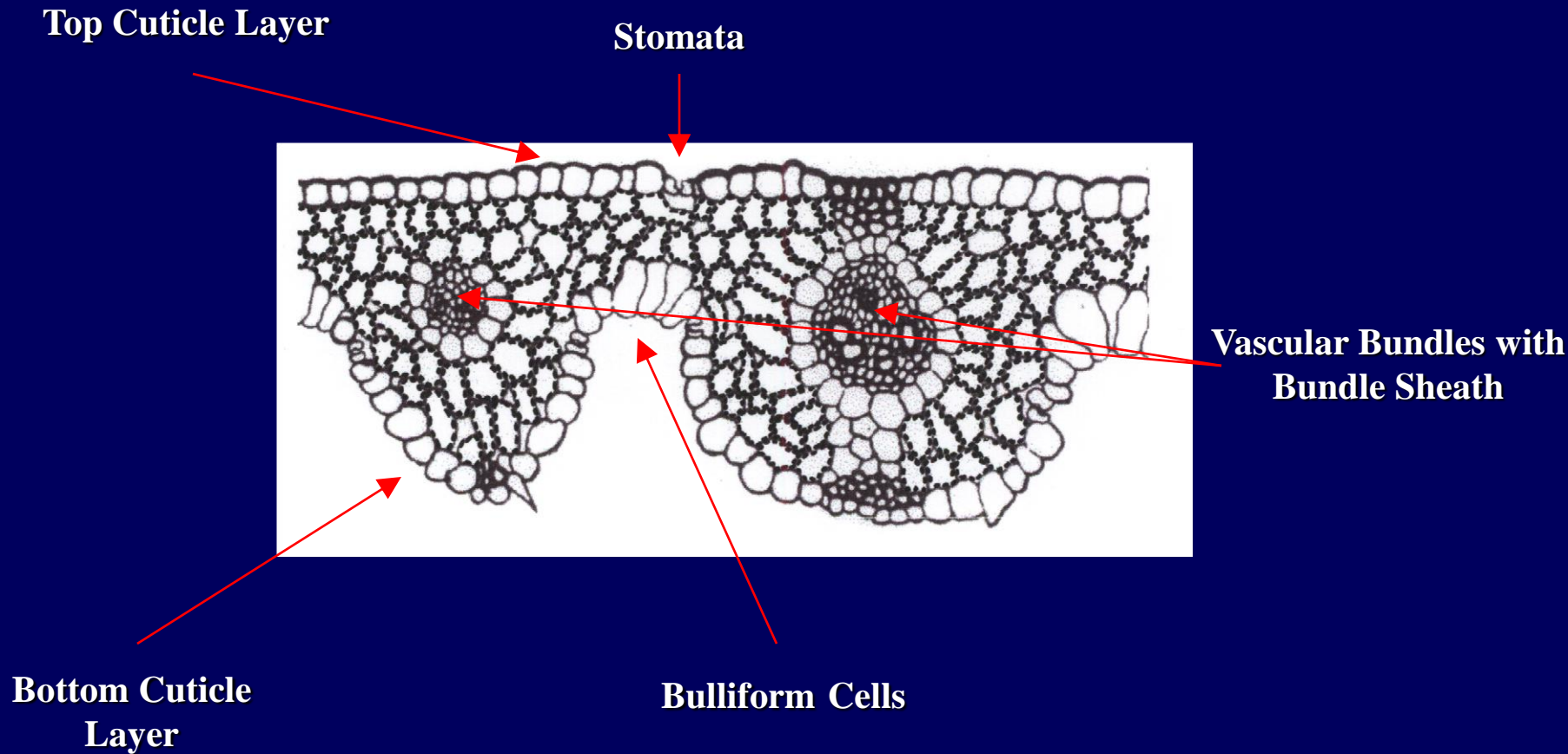
Pasture (rental rate)	\$91.31	\$96.33
Hay and forage	149.44	111.33
Grain	0.00	0.00
Protein and mineral	57.56	47.03
Labor	55.00	55.00
Veterinary, drugs, and supplies	25.00	25.00
Marketing	21.97	19.91
Utilities and all machinery costs	108.33	101.96
Livestock facility repairs	8.00	8.00
Breeding charge		
Cow replacement (15% of heifers)	218.46	218.46
Bull cost or A.I. charge	14.50	14.50
Interest on breeding stock	85.70	85.70
Insurance on breeding stock	13.18	13.18
Professional fees (legal, accounting, etc.)	1.00	1.00
Miscellaneous	6.00	6.00
Interest on 1/2 operating costs @ 7%	17.63	16.01
TOTAL OPERATING COSTS	\$873.09	\$819.41

Tall Fescue in Autumn



- Almost entirely leaf
- Grows rapidly from early September until November – 1 to 2 tons per acre with good management
- More fall growth than other CSG's
- Waxy layer on leaves slows deterioration

Cuticle Layer of Tall Fescue



Reducing Winter Feed Costs

Hay is expensive costing \$1-1.50 hd⁻¹ d⁻¹



1. Equipment cost
2. Transportation cost
3. Storage cost (Horner, 2005)

Stockpiled tall fescue is inexpensive costing \$0.45 hd⁻¹ d⁻¹

1. Extends the grazing season (Fribourg and Bell, 1984)
2. Reduces winter labor cost (Van Keuren, 1970)
3. Almost eliminates the need for hay (Clark, 2003)

However, tall fescue is commonly infected with a fungal endophyte, known to caused animal health disorders

The Recipe

- **August 1st to 15th**
 - ◆ **Start w/ a clean field**
 - ◆ **3" to 6" growth**
 - ◆ **Fertilize w/ Nitrogen**
 - ◆ **Delay grazing until needed**
 - ◆ **Preferably after Dec 1st**

How Much N?

- Generally, 40 to 80 lb/acre
- Higher rate for fields with high water holding capacity, few weeds, little legume, low endophyte
- Lower rate for fields with low fertility, little soil depth, weedy, high legume content, high endophyte

Choosing the Best Fields for Stockpiling



When to Fertilize?

- **August 1st to 15th**
- **Do I wait for rain?**
- **Will my fertilizer be there?**

Is This a Good Field for Stockpiling?





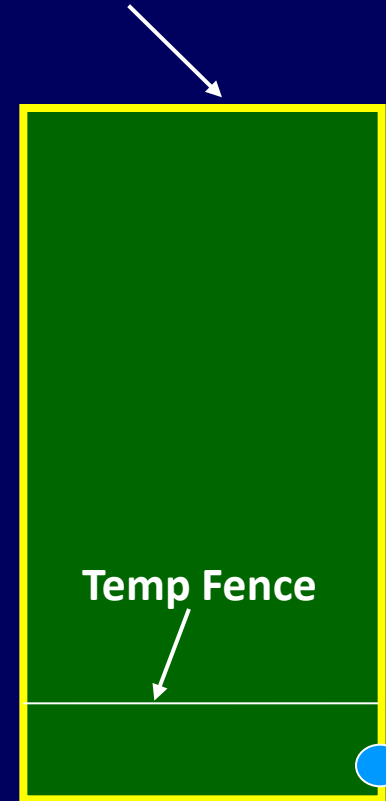
Keys to Success

- **August 1st to 15th**
 - **Clean Field**
 - **Applied Fertilizer**
 - **Accumulated Growth**
- **January 1st**
 - **What is the most important thing you do?**

Strip Grazing

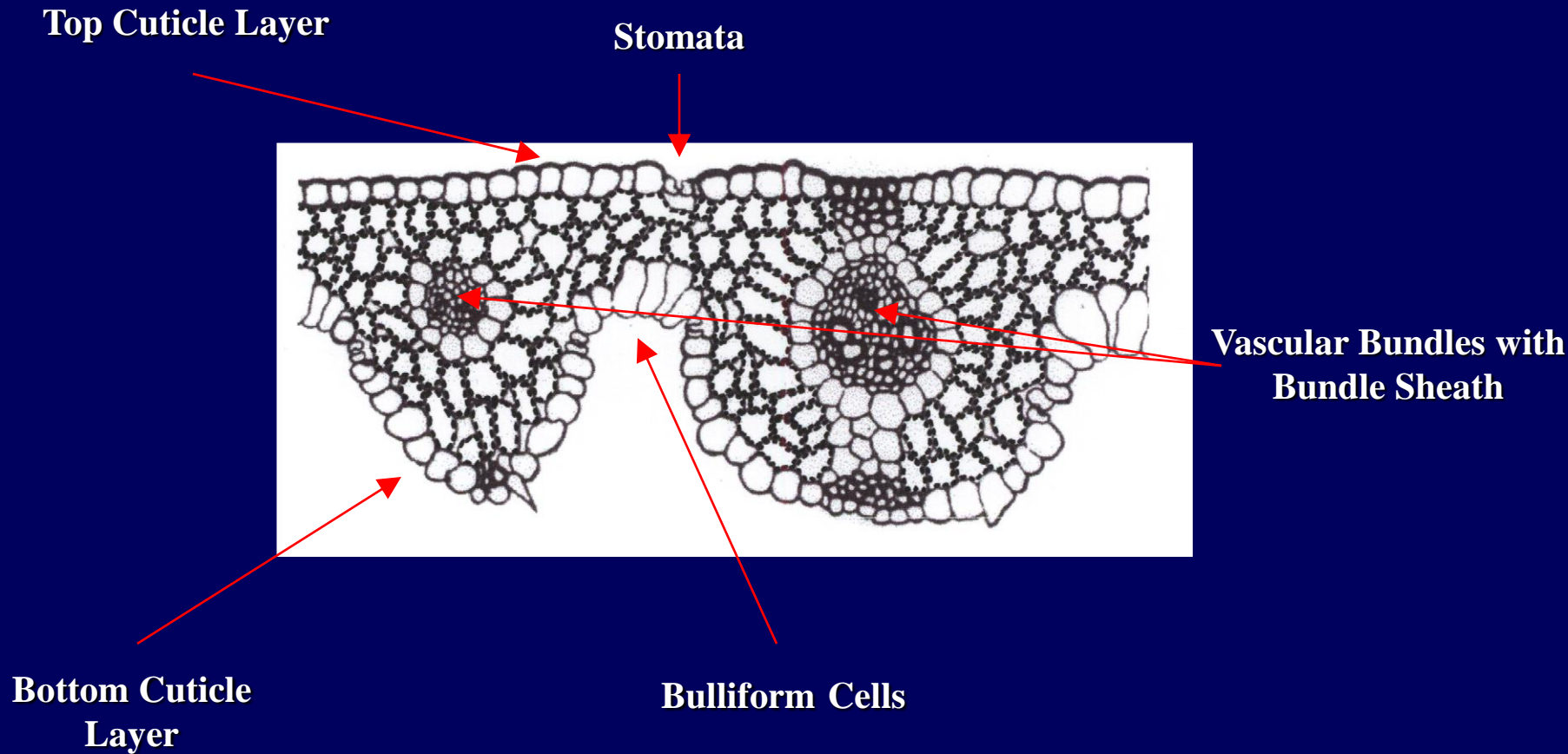


Perimeter Fence



Winter Water

Cuticle Layer of Tall Fescue



What Caused This?



Utilization Rates of Stockpiled Tall Fescue

Allocation	Utilization
days	%
3	70
7	50
14	40

Would You Do This?



Is This Acceptable?



What Caused This?



Utilization Rates of Stockpiled Tall Fescue

Allocation	Utilization
days	%
3	70
7	50
14	40

My Truck



My Yard



My Yard



Last Winter



Would Your Cows Eat This?







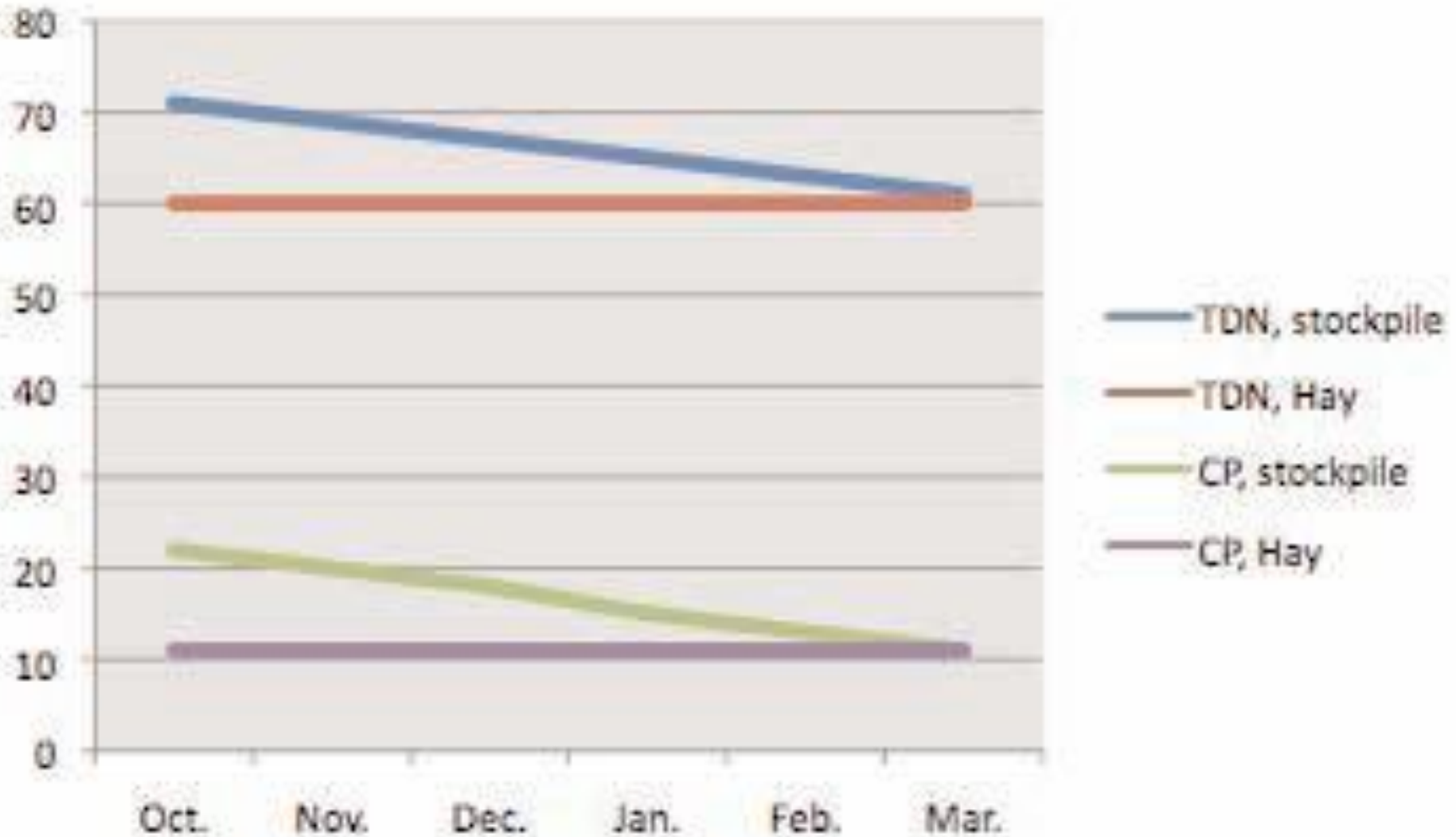






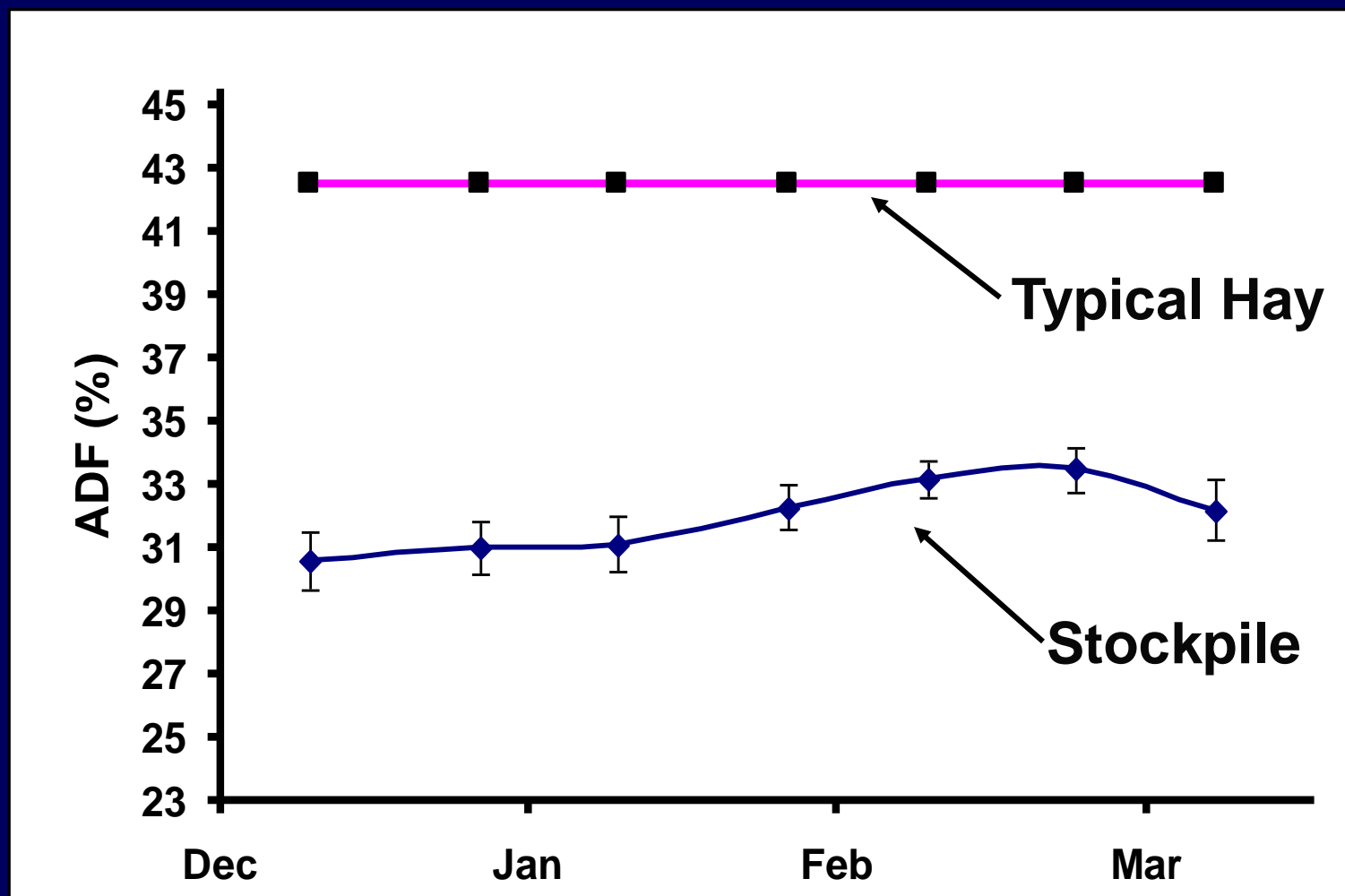


Figure 1. Comparison of stockpiled tall fescue quality to average hay quality.



Source: Mark Kennedy, Missouri, 1997–2003, and John Jennings, Arkansas, 1998–2002.

Tall Fescue Quality in Autumn and Winter



Winter Feeding Equipment



Can I Drive This Time?

Even Used Portable Water



Strip Grazing = Quick Return

Use it to Reinvest



- **Charger: \$155**
- **Reels: 2 @ \$100 = \$200**
- **Step-in Posts: 50 @ \$3.50 = \$175**
- **Jumper Cables: 2 @ \$5.75 = \$11.50**
- **Total = \$541.50**



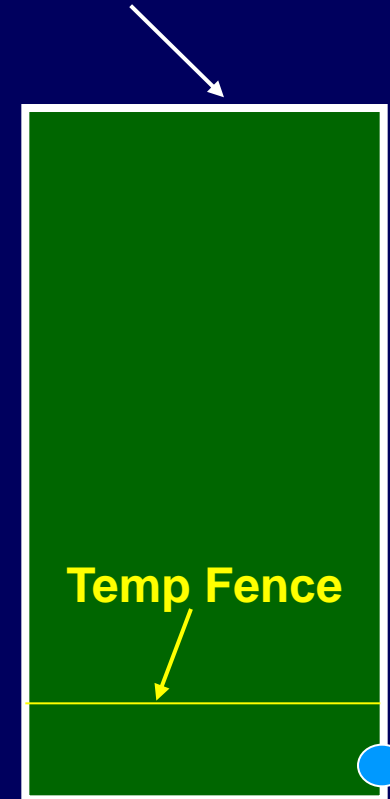
How Long Did it Last?



Strip Grazing



Perimeter Fence



Winter Water

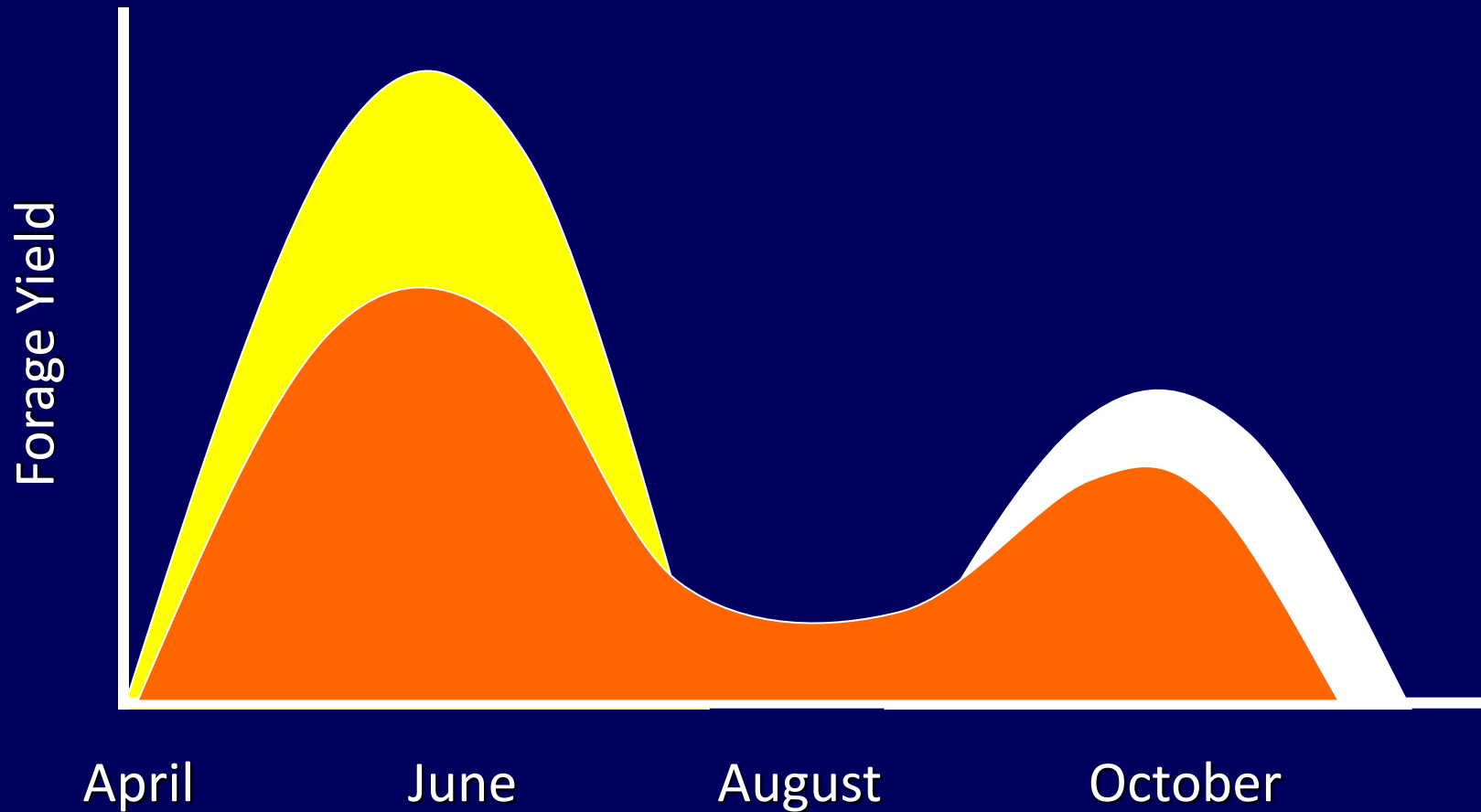
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Allocation	Utilization
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7	50
14	40

When Do They Fertilize?



Nitrogen for Cool-season grasses





“The more metal and fuel you put between solar energy and a cow’s belly the less profitable you will be.” *Jim Gerrish*



**Some People Have Fancy Equipment
I Stockpile More Grass & Utilize it Well**



Contact Information

Wesley Tucker

(417) 326-4916

tuckerw@missouri.edu